

DESERT WHISPERS

Vol. 1 No. 3

FROM JOHNSON VALLEY

15c November, 1967

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY OF THE G.I.A.

The annual Christmas party of the Grandview Improvement Association will be held Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m., in the community building.

A money tree will replace the usual gift exchange, with proceeds allocated to the building fund, President Alex Chernoff announced.

Funds are needed to complete the kitchen and restroom facilities. When finished, the building can be made available for many community functions, Chernoff pointed out.

Christmas carol singing will also be featured at the Saturday evening affair, which will conclude with refreshments. Guests are welcome.

RIDER INJURED

A motorcycle rider was reported injured on Thanksgiving Day when he rode into a barbed wire fence near Rock Corral. He was rushed to the Yucca Valley Hospital by C. E. Goodridge and John Blakely. Surgery was performed on a face and neck cut. Further details were not available.

Valley Reports

Mechanical failure of refrigeration units forced the Chisel Inn to close early Wednesday, until 6 p.m. Friday. That's par for a holiday weekend, Aileen said.

Charles and Doris Brundle, of Long Beach, spent last Sunday with the Stanleys. Daughters Rita and Audrey, and little Missy, a great-granddaughter, were guests on Thanksgiving Day and plan to stay for several days.

Ruby Reaves and daughter Karan joined the Coutants for the holiday.

For the second year, the Bert Campbells, Gerry Nearys, the Howard Tiggemans and the Joe De Victorias observed the day together, this year at the Valley of the Moon. Jack Inns and Millie Michaels joined them this year.

ASSOCIATION MOVES FORWARD

Reports on a rubbish disposal site, Rock Corral Recreation Park, and telephones were given to members of the Grandview Improvement Association at the November meeting.

Site of the cut and fill dump is in section 24, in the foothills east of Rock Corral. The dump will serve all of Johnson Valley, association President Alex Chernoff pointed out. First step is for the county board of supervisors to file an application with the Bureau of Land Management, and this is being done.

Action is going slowly on the Rock Corral Recreation Park, Chernoff said, and added that he is optimistic. Trees and shrubs have been promised, and a parking area is planned. The G.I.A. hopes to place a memorial to Mrs. Daisy Crawford in the park.

The proposed water district is at a standstill at the moment, it was reported.

"The flags are flying" in telephone line surveys, several residents said. Applications can be made for phones, which can serve to indicate to the phone company that there is interest.

Chernoff urged all members to keep in touch with the various agencies involved in Johnson Valley improvements.

"That's the way to get results," Chernoff said.

Dan Jarvis was appointed chairman of the sign committee to establish and maintain directional and informational signs, including one at the highway. Mrs. Jarvis will repaint the old signs.

Bill Thompson, roofer from Lucerne Valley, has repaired the community building roof gratis, with materials donated by Chernoff. The slab has been poured for the rest rooms, and framing was scheduled to begin. An estimate for kitchen plumbing is being sought.

Clarence Estes' sale of surplus chairs provided funds for G.I.A. as well as serving as unscheduled entertainment for the evening.

Refreshments were provided by the social committee.

The next association meeting will be a social affair at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 2 in the community building.

A HAPPY HOLIDAY
GREETINGS TO ALL!

—The Staff

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

By Aileen De Victoria

Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, of Laguna Beach spent a week-end at their cabin after almost a year's absence. They were surprised to find many new neighbors and to hear that Johnson Valley has its own newspaper.

*

Lucille Campbell and Hilda Garcia investigated a commotion on the porch at the Campbell cabin and found the dog, "Little Bit" arguing with a snake. Sarge Stanley responded to the call for aid, with a shovel.

*

Elmer (Jake) Jacobs celebrated his birthday Oct. 29. Jake and Mildred attended a "Nite Owl" broadcast and a convention in Desert Hot Springs.

*

The only five children living in Johnson Valley had a field day on Halloween, trick or treating. The Dumonds - Patsy, Dana and Mickey as hobos, and Terry a teen-age glamour "girl," with Jody De Victoria as a HORSE, had the valley to themselves. Nancy and Dick Dumond chauffeured, and Golda Gunning got into the Halloween act for the first time in her life.

Trick or treating at the cabin of Mary and Jerry Neary was a centipede, found in a drinking glass.

*

The Shehorns enjoyed a wonderful ten-day trip to Glen Canyon, Arizona. They toured the new lake, stopping for hikes in the caves and coves, and collected many rocks.

The Shehorns are long-time residents of the Valley, but have just acquired electric power. Friends observed the occasion with an "electricity party," arriving with a shower of electric appliances.

*

Burl Moore was surprised with a birthday party at the Chisel Inn on Nov. 11. Thelma saw to it that Burl was at the right place at the right time. Stan (Coot) Coutant played the organ for entertainment.

-- A. D.

A new addition at the Earl Roush Ranchero is a large sun porch, which is furnished with a pool table!

*

Bill Cotter was a recent visitor while recuperating. He plans to return to his desert home soon.

*

Mr. and Mrs. Al Piacentini, of Alhambra, entertained eight couples at their Valley home on Nov. 12. Golf at the Yucca Valley course was on the itinerary.

A smile costs nothing, but creates much. It happens in a flash, but the memory of it lasts forever. It cannot be begged, borrowed or stolen, but is of no earthly good to anyone until it is given away.

SECTION THIRTEEN DOINGS

Eleanor and Evelyn Moles, of Eagle Rock, entertained their guests, Rose Jananyou and Ethel Riley.

Leah McConnel was the guest of Diana Wilson.

The Emmet Shaefer's were hosts to two guests of the Shaefer's sons.

Helping to keep the hillside lights burning were the John Soukups. Also regular week-enders the Pete Larsens and the Richardsons.

Louise Froewiss, a former property owner here, came out to attend the Grandview Association meeting and spend the weekend with the Padens.

The Padens spent Thanksgiving in Garden Grove with their family which includes a daughter, grand-daughter and a great-grandson.

*

Leonard Conrad is recuperating after a stay in the hospital, according to reports from the family in Ontario.

*

HAPPY LANDINGS

Among those landing at the Valley Vista Air Strip this past month was George Buckmaster, from Big Bear. He enjoyed a visit with the Jarvises, air strip proprietors, and plans to bring Mrs. Buckmaster on his next trip.

Three boys from Long Beach also flew in to look over property they are interested in purchasing.

*

Marion Page reported to be in the San Bernardino hospital with a back injury.

*

Mr. Leopoldi and sons were up watering their trees.

*

Dick DuBois, and Deane Piner, Sr., and Deane Piner, Jr., have painted the water tank at Rock Corral. It was Dick's idea, and he provided the paint.

*

Jim and Lilly Cathy have returned from a six-weeks visit to their son, daughter and other relatives in Missouri.

*

The many friends of Margaret Stice welcomed her back home after a lengthy hospital stay.

*

Francis and Nelson Kimber weekendend and visited the Jarvises.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Brooks and sons brought out a new sand buggy.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ross were among those checking in.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bruce among those visiting the Piners. Also Mrs. Jo Lauritson, of Camarillo, a grammar school chum of Ruby Piner's.

LIKE TO SING?

Come to the Grandview Improvement Association meeting at the community building, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

An open letter to Valley residents:

To the Johnson Valley, Landers and all other friends of Daisy Crawford:

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the kind expressions of help and sympathy you have rendered at this time of losing Daisy. Your friendship was her dearest possession.

Jerry Willis

*

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

by Marie Stanley

Our Queen has gone, but her memory lingers on. A blanket of sorrow hovers over our Valley at the passing of our dear friend and neighbor, Daisy Crawford. She was born July 19, 1881, in Tahlequah, Okla., and died Nov. 1, 1967.

Daisy was an inspiration to the community. All who knew her gained from her wisdom and experience. She was always ready to extend a helping hand, and was a tireless worker for any project that would benefit the community.

The name of Daisy Crawford is synonymous with Johnson Valley and Lucerne Valley. Daisy was a pioneer of some 25 years here in the Valley, and helped it to grow into the beauty spot it is today. The great void in our lives will not easily be filled.

Our deepest sympathy to her son Jerry and her remaining relatives.

MEMORIAL FUND

Residents of Johnson Valley, Lucerne Valley, and Landers, have generously contributed funds sufficient for a memorial to Daisy Crawford.

A large piece of granite is being donated, and will be suitably inscribed to the memory of Daisy. It is to be permanently located in the proposed Rock Corral Recreation Park.

Any surplus funds will be used for a plaque.

Additional information and a progress report will be forthcoming.

Many of those who donated to the fund were supporters of her projects when things needed doing. Daisy would rustle her bustle and go from door to door collecting money when the roads needed work, and arranging for a road grader. And how she cajoled us all into replacing pipe to the water tank at Rock Corral, and brought jars of cookies and gallons of coffee to the workers on the job. That is just a sample of the recollections now that Daisy is gone. She will always be remembered here in the Valley.

--M.C.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Known as Broken Arrow Ranch; four acres, sloping gradually. Five room house: two bedrooms, living-room kitchen and bath; enclosed porch, surrounding one-half of house. Partly furnished. Four burner kitchen range, Servel Refrg, beds, chairs, sofa and other items. Ready to move in. Also garage and storage building. Electricity and good lighting. Many extras on the property including a water heater, doors, screens and lumber. Shrubs and trees. South of the community building. L.W.Jones.

TREE WATERING

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TREE WATERING!

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TO EVA HIBBARD'S GIFT SHOP

Eva Hibbard, prop.

The Desert Whispers from Johnson Valley. Published once a month. Subscriptions, one dollar and a half (\$1.50) per year or for 12 issues.

Mailing address:
Star Route #2,
Box 804 or Box 808
Yucca Valley, Calif. 92284

GREETINGS TO OUR READERS

This is the third edition of The Desert Whispers from Johnson Valley. Readers have more than doubled since the second issue. Subscriptions have grown from 41 to 87, and all 200 copies printed found a home.

Response with items of news and for the contributors column has been great. We even have a backlog of poems from our supply of home talent. So keep it up and we will try to keep up with you. --M.C.

NO PLACE LIKE JOHNSON VALLEY

THE BEAUTY SPOT OF THE HIGH DESERT

SOME TIME YOU WILL LIVE HERE

PLAN NOW. ACREAGE AND CABINS.

BRUCE HOOKER
Manager, Johnson Valley Branch Office
BILL HANSON REALTY

CONTRIBUTOR'S COLUMN

TO EACH HIS OWN
or
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE DESERT BEAUTIFUL?

My neighbor left his acres clean;
No trash about to grace the scene.
I threw mine out upon the ground,
A goodly lot I tossed around -
Old bottle, paper plates, tin cans,
Used cement sacks, worn-out brogans.
Why should I haul the mess away?
I just came up to spend the day.
The desert wind blew up a gale;
Picked up my trash and set it sail.
It draped upon each bush that grew,
Festooned my toilet paper too.
My neighbors place that looked so fine
Is now identical to mine.

--Francis Kimber

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THE DESERT WHISPERS

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WEDDING BELLS

Sylvia O'Dwyer became Mrs. Jerry Betts on Nov. 17. The couple was married in Las Vegas, and on the return trip stopped to visit the Dumonds. The Betts will live in Alhambra, but Sylvia says they will look forward to eventually returning to the desert.

*

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A Yucaipa woman was injured the night of Nov. 16, when her car left the road two miles west of the Chisel Inn. Apparently no one saw the accident in the darkness.

According to reports, Dorothy Robinett was trapped all night in the overturned car. She was taken to St. Mary's Hospital.

Ed Smith, of Abel TV, first found the car, 300 feet off the road, at 6:45 a.m. The woman was pinned by the steering wheel.

A Passing driver and school bus driver, John Medici, assisted in relaying a message for help. Joe and Aileen De Victoria and Richard Dumond responded to do what could be done until arrival of the Highway Patrol and ambulance.

Members of Desert Ears CB Club tried unsuccessfully to get a message through the skip.

Participants trying to obtain help for the injured woman pointed out that the incident demonstrates the need for telephones in the Valley, as a 15-mile drive was involved in getting to the nearest phone to call the CHP and ambulance.

*

MUSINGS FROM THE HORNED TOAD

Here I am, enjoying the beauty of the desert while doing my push-ups, (227, 228) and watching people charge around seeking relaxation.

For instance, what about that trip that Earl and Bea Roush, and the Cecil Heads, made to Eagle's Nest Mountain. They all saw two deer in a beautiful green alfalfa field and immediately high-tailed it to summon a friend with a rifle. Suddenly, they said, the deer turned into two beautiful brown goats.

They returned to Roush's Ranchero where Goldie Hopper consoled them with fresh home-made bread in place of anticipated venison. (229, 230)

And did you hear that T-V announcement - "The story you are about to hear is true, only the incidents have been changed."

And the astrological forecast for the Aquarians - "Since you are most unhappy when not working, this is one day you can feel hilarious with all the tasks in front of you." I should be so happy? People!!! (231, 232, 233.)

-The Horned Toad

* * * *

A LETTER OF CLARIFICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

G. I. Voran, of the Naval Weapons Center, Corona Laboratories, has sent us the following information concerning the status of the field station in Johnson Valley, which we have referred to as the NOLC site.

"We have found it desirable to change to a more economical mode of operation there, in which a full complement of technical personnel are to be provided at the site only during the preparation for and actual operation of specific tests. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hulbert are staying there to keep it in a state of readiness for these tests. The facility has not been closed, nor is there any intention of doing so.

"It might be added that this activity (whose official name has been changed to the Naval Weapons Center Corona Laboratories) has enjoyed a long and pleasant relationship with the people in and around Johnson Valley, and we would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the consideration that our personnel have been shown by the people of your community.

"Please feel free to consult with us any time you may have questions concerning our facility or our operations there."

G. I. Voran
Public Affairs Officer

Since there is much speculation as to what goes on at the site, we will make an effort to get more information for our readers, regarding the operation, based on Mr. Voran's offer to answer questions. Ed.

DECEMBER SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday Masses are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Lucerne Valley. Confessions are heard before all Masses.

St. Paul's is on Mesa Road. The parish extends five miles east of the Chisel Inn. All living west of that point are in St. Paul's parish. The pastor is Father Scanlan, known to many in Johnson Valley. (Cont.)

SCHROEDER'S RAIDERS TO THE RESCUE

Two local couples have found out the meaning of the phrase "do a good turn daily".

Dan and Eva Hibbard and Sarge and Marie Stanley were the recipients of the good deed on Nov. 4 while on the way to Lucerne Valley. Their car developed a flat tire.

Sarge, dressed in his best bib and tucker had started to change the tire when a bus load of 14 Cub Scouts and leaders arrived and took things in hand.

The rescuers, dubbed Schroeder's Raiders for the outing, are members of Cub Scout Pack 750-C of Whittier.

Bill Mayhew is Cubmaster, and is assisted by Chuck Schroeder as Webelos leader.

Rick Mayhew is the Den Chief, and is a Scout in Troop 935 of Whittier.

"They are a wonderful group of boys," Mrs. Stanley said, in expressing a big thank you.

*

THANKSGIVING DAY DOINGS

Howard and Marilyn Tiggeman entertained Howard's folks from Minnesota. It was the visitors' first trip to the desert.

The Draugbaghs entertained their daughter and her family. The Dumonds went "below."

* * * *

On Saturday, Dec. 16, there will be a Dime-A-Dip, followed by games and community singing of Christmas hymns. Father Scanlan extends an invitation to all.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Mass.

On Christmas Day there will be a Mass at 10 a.m. only.

* * * * *